

## Kever Avot

With Rabbi Camille Shira  
Angel and Paul Cohen

Sunday, October 5, 10:30 am  
Hills of Eternity, Colma

The High Holidays are a period for recalling the lasting influence of loved ones and friends upon our lives. Jewish tradition teaches us that we are to honor our dead with special moments of memorial observance and by living lives that reflect their highest aspirations. It is customary to visit the graves of those who enriched us with their care, counsel and love. At the grave, a memorial prayer, along with the Kaddish prayer, are recited. We will meet at Hills of Eternity at 10:30 am for Kever Avot and brunch.

## Second Annual Congregational Advance at CSZ

Saturday, November 1,  
10 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, November 2,  
10 am to 3:30 pm

Come launch CSZ into our next 25 years together with a weekend of learning, inspiration, creativity and exploration. Last year's Advance was fun and rewarding. This year's promises to be even better.

The weekend begins with morning services led by Steve Weitz, followed by a catered lunch. The afternoon will be spent in both small and large groups getting to know ourselves, each other and our history.

On Sunday we'll make art and poetry, envision our future together and work on creating a culture of generosity.

We look forward to seeing you at our advance.

## Celebrate Sukkot at Sha'ar Zahav

Tuesday, October 7, 7 pm  
Friday, October 10, 6 pm

Join your fellow Sha'ar Zahavniks for a special Sukkot. On Tuesday, October 7, help us build our sukkah at the home of Steve Mazer, 409 Dolores Street #3 (just a block and a half from shul) at 7 pm. No building experience is necessary. If you have built a sukkah before, your experience will be appreciated. Even if you have never held a hammer before, your enthusiasm is wanted and welcome. This will be fun for people of all ages.

On Friday, October 10, grab a dish to share and join us for a Shabbat Sukkot pre-service vegetarian potluck in the sukkah at Steve's house. The potluck will begin at 6 pm, leaving us plenty of time to get to services by 7:30 pm, for a very special Shabbat Sukkot Shalom.

Please RSVP for both events to Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). See page 5 for information about Kadimah's Sukkot celebration.

## Dancing in the Streets Simchat Torah at CSZ

Friday, October 17, 7:30 pm

Celebrate Simchat Torah with music, dancing and fun! This year, we have received permission from the City of San Francisco to close down the west side of Dolores Street and dance in the streets with the Torah. We will have live Klezmer music by Kugelpex, sweets and a true Simchat Torah celebration. Bring all your friends

and your entire family for this not-to-be-missed service and celebration. The service will begin with Shabbat and the consecration of the new students (see page 5 for more information), continue with dancing with the Torah and will conclude with an oneg. For more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).



## 5764 High Holiday Services

Kol Nidre	October 5, 7:30 pm	Herbst Theater
Yom Kippur morning	October 6, 9:30 am	Herbst Theater
Yom Kippur family services	October 6, 9:30 – 10:30 am	Herbst Theater
Yizkor	October 6, 5:45 pm	Herbst Theater
Neilah	October 6, 6:30 pm	Herbst Theater
Erev Sukkot	October 10, 7:30 pm	CSZ
Sukkot	October 11, 10 am	CSZ
Simchat Torah	October 17, 7:30 pm	CSZ

## Children's High Holiday Activities

(Children must be pre-registered to participate.)

Kol Nidre childcare	October 5, 7:30 – 10:00 pm	Herbst Theater
Yom Kippur morning childcare	October 6, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Herbst Theater
Yizkor/Neilah childcare	October 6, 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Herbst Theater



## Rabbi's Column Making Changes

*Shanah tovah u'metukah*

- a good and sweet New Year, 5764, to you and your loved ones. As I begin my fourth year serving as the rabbi of our vibrant and inspiring community, I want to say thank you. Thank you for helping me grow as a counselor and a pastor, as a teacher and a leader, as an activist, as a Jew, as a lesbian. Thank you for supporting and encouraging me as a person and as a child of God.



When I was a kid, my sister embroidered this sweet little sign that hung on my bedroom door all through my adolescence. In cross-stitch it read, "Please be patient. God isn't through with me yet!" I like to remember that message of compassion at this season as I consider the different ways I've disappointed people's expectations. For any hurt I've caused you, consciously or unwittingly, I ask for your forgiveness. I hope I'll do better next time if given the chance.

After all, we are capable of change! In Judaism, this is the essential statement of faith. God calls upon us, symbolically through this season but actually at all times, to be the best human beings, morally and spiritually, that we can be. This demands of us a constant openness to change and growth. Admitting that we've done wrong, resolving to change comfortable habits - these options are not easy, but they are available to us, would we but choose them.

Our behavior does make a difference and we do have an important measure of control over our lives. It helps to have community and people we consider family as we endeavor to realize our highest selves. Towards this essential and sacred task, I am here to support you and share the wisdom from our treasured tradition.

May God give us the courage to grow and to change, to help us be more compassionate with one another and ourselves as we endeavor to make our lives a blessing. May we be written in the Book of Life for a full and meaningful year.

## Rabbi Angel in the Community

Rabbi Angel has been invited to serve as a friend of "openhouse," formerly named the Rainbow Adult Community Housing, whose mission is to provide mixed-use, mixed-income senior housing that welcomes members of the LGBT community. She is also currently serving on the Rabbinic Advisory Council of Shalom Bayit, Bay Area Jewish women working to end domestic violence. In addition, Rabbi Angel is maintaining her rabbinic presence on the board of the Jewish Bulletin of Northern California. Mazel tov to Rabbi Angel!

## A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?

**Taught by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel**

**October 23 - November 6, 7 pm - 8:45 pm**

Join Rabbi Angel in a free three-session exploration of Jewish spirituality, Jewish values and the Jewish people. "A Taste of Judaism" offers a modern, Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world. Open to the community, Jewish or not, these classes are designed for "beginners." Course content is not dependent upon previous knowledge about Judaism. An informal atmosphere will encourage lively discussions of Reform Judaism's approach to living in our rapidly changing society. Unaffiliated Jews, non-Jews, interfaith couples, children of interfaith couples, in-laws of Jews - anyone seeking more knowledge about Judaism will find this course a good beginning.

This class will be held at CSZ and is offered in conjunction with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. This class is free of charge. For more information or to register, please contact Meredith MacDonald (415/392-7080, x17, or [mmacdonald@uahc.org](mailto:mmacdonald@uahc.org)).

## Our Apologies

In the September issue of the *Jewish Gaily Forward*, the name of one of the young men who led the CSZ contingent was incorrect. His name is Evan Arnold-Gordon. Our apologies to Evan and his family.

## The Jewish Gaily Forward

**October 2003  
Volume 27, Issue 2**

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org). Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the Forward as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a Forward subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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Display ads are \$15 per column inch with discounts available for frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each additional 10 words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

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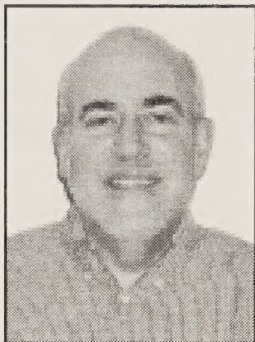


## Advancing to the Future

L'shanah tovah. You will be receiving this issue of the *JGF* in the midst of our High Holidays and I hope you are finding yourself strengthened and renewed by the season. The High Holidays are a time for individual reflection, taking stock and planning for personal change.

We are in the middle of another season of reflection and planning here at Sha'ar Zahav, the season of our Advances. In August, we held our Leadership Advance, where a group of Va'ad members, committee chairs and past presidents spent a weekend discussing some of the key issues and challenges facing us as a congregation. On the weekend of November 1-2, we will hold our Second Annual Congregational Advance and invite the entire community to a weekend of dialogue and activity at CSZ, focused on thinking about our future. (See related articles on page(s) 1 and 9.)

At this year's Leadership Advance, we had one session that focused on leadership priorities for the coming year. Rabbi Angel and I presented a set of five priorities that we have agreed are important for leadership to focus on in the coming year. Much of the rest of the Advance was devoted to discussions of some of the key topics on this list. These priorities have been discussed at several Va'ad meetings and there will surely be opportunity for discussion at the Congregational Advance. I'd like to share a brief description of these five areas with you and invite you to participate in the ongoing discussions about them. (One caveat: This is not meant to be a list of the most important things we do as a community, our worship services, education, etc., but a list of those areas most needing leadership focus.)



**Financial** – This is a challenging time for us financially, as with many religious and non-profit institutions. Last year resulted in a deficit and it is imperative that we act this year to strengthen the financial position of the congregation. This will include expanded fundraising activities, a careful review of our budget and enhanced efforts at membership retention and outreach.

**Staffing** – Our goal is to ensure that our professional staff is configured in a way that is appropriately aligned with congregational needs and resources. We have taken a big step in this area already, with the addition of Jay Miller as our Interim Executive Director. We are also going to take some time this year to assess our needs for rabbinic resources and develop strategies to meet those needs in the near and longer term.

**Communication** – As we become a more complex and diverse congregation, it is important that we have communication that keeps everyone well connected to the community. We must also communicate more effectively with the wider community around us.

**Looking Outside of Ourselves** – It is important that we do not get so focused on our internal issues that we lose sight of our need for commitment and outreach to the larger community. CSZ has always been about changing the world, and we need to look for new ways to strengthen our commitment to tikkun olam and to align ourselves with other organizations that share our values.

**Visioning** – The world and our community are changing, and it is vital that we continue the discussions about re-invigorating our vision – our sense of purpose and our aspirations for the institution we are building for the future. And we must do it in a way that channels our diversity and individual passions into strength and cohesion for our community.

This is a big list, reflective of the challenges and the excitement that the future holds for us. I invite your participation as we continue to define and refine our direction for this year and beyond. Please join us for the Congregational Advance.

## Introducing CSZ's Monthly Silent Meditation Shabbat Afternoons

October 18, November 15, December 6, 1 – 5 pm

CSZ members Ruth Schoenbach and Rachel Timoner are convening these Shabbat afternoon sessions to support CSZ members and friends in developing and sustaining a daily meditation practice.

Rachel and Ruth became "chevruta buddies" over a year ago at the end of a class taught by Rabbi Angel, and they have supported each other in working on daily meditation practice as a part of Jewish life. They felt that they wanted more support for meditation within the CSZ community and decided to create it.

Here's your chance to experience a four-hour session of silent meditation (with some chanting). For those who are new to meditation or new to meditation in a Jewish context, but are willing to "jump into the pool," there will be support in the form of Rabbi David Cooper's *Renewing Your Soul: A Guided Retreat for the Sabbath and Other Days of Rest* (1995, HarperSanFrancisco) which we will use to guide our meditation. Several copies will be available, but participants should bring their own if they have a

copy. In general, the afternoons will begin with chanting, then move through a series of sitting and moving meditation exercises described in Cooper's book.

Participants should bring meditation benches or cushions if they want to use them, with or without the folding chairs at the synagogue. In addition, participants may want to bring journals, pens and snacks for our (silent) breaks. These sessions are free.

## Learn Trope and to Chant Torah

Taught by Ron Edelman

Tuesdays, November 4 – January 20  
(no class 11/25, 12/23, 12/30), 7:30 pm

Join CSZ member Ron Edelman in a beginning Torah trope class. You must be able to read basic Hebrew, but Hebrew comprehension is not necessary. Cost for the series is \$36 for members and \$72 for nonmembers.

Class size is limited so sign up early. Graduation readings will be at the Torah service on February 14. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).



# Tales of the Sages: A Talmud Class

Taught by Ruth Haber

Wednesdays, October 22 through November 12, 7 – 9 pm

*"In many ways the Talmud is the most important book in Jewish culture, the backbone of creativity and of national life. No other work has had a comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish life."*

- Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz

The Babylonian Talmud is a richly varied text containing not only rabbinic arguments, but also stories about the sages themselves. In these tales, time slows down to give us a glimpse of a single moment or speeds up, telescoping much of a life story into a single vivid episode.

Our readings will focus on the relationships among the sages, with their complex bonds of devotion, antagonism and deference. Then we will zoom out to view the context of these tales, considering the sometimes quite subtle connections between each story and the *sugyah* in which it appears (a *sugyah* is a discussion of a specific point where rabbis present their varying views on the issue at hand).

The class will be taught by Ruth Haber, a doctoral student and instructor in the field of Rabbinics at the UC Berkeley - Graduate Theological Union Program in Jewish Studies. Ruth's work focuses on *aggadah* (loosely defined as 'non-legal' or halakhah material) - the stories of the Talmud and midrashim - with a special focus on the form and fabric of these tales. As Ruth puts it, "Each aggadic text bears not only the story it tells, but another half-hidden tale - that of its own history. The mixed texture of gemara narrative shimmers with threads of the rich and varied sources from which it is woven."

Whether you have little or no understanding of this Talmudic "sea of knowledge" or diligently do your *daf yomi* (the daily page) of study, please join us for this opportunity to explore a portion of Judaism's central pillar of learning. Cost for this class is \$36 for members, \$72 for nonmembers. For information or to register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).



*Building and Grounds Committee chair Beth Sousa prepped and painted all the new windows for the first floor. She was helped in this endeavor by Ron Miguel, Tamhas Griffith, Andrea Guerra, Anna Lichtenberg, Karen Schiller, Jay Miller, Nol Simonese and Rabbi Angel. Photo by Craig Shear.*

## Everyone Has a Story:

### Talking to Our Kids about Their Origins: Adoption and Modern Donor Technologies in Our Jewish Families

On Saturday, October 11, following Shabbat services, Sha'ar Zahav will host a panel discussion. It will focus on the language and social context we draw upon to speak with kids about their origins, taking into account birth parenting, adoption and new donor technologies. Jonathan Pannor, a member of our congregation and a well-known counselor and group facilitator in this field, will join Rabbi Angel and others to explore traditional and contemporary Judaic perspectives on children's origins: when and how kids should be informed; the language of acceptance amongst friends, family and community; how kids integrate and carry forth their stories with them; and how Jewish communal life can play a supportive role. Please join us for this practical and enriching exploration of our family's lives and hear from others what they've experienced. Watch CSZ's weekly emails for further details.

## Introduction to Judaism

November 13 – February 19 (no class on 11/27, 12/25 and 1/1),  
7 pm – 8:45 pm

Do you want to know more about Reform Judaism? Introduction to Judaism is a great opportunity for adults to learn about the beauty of Reform Judaism and Jewish life.

This course is for anyone curious about the basic principles and practices of Judaism. Register on your own or with a partner.

This class will be held at CSZ and is offered in conjunction with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Cost for this class is \$160 for CSZ and other UAHC-affiliated synagogue members (individual or couple) or \$240 for nonmembers (individual or couple).

For more information or to register, please contact Meredith MacDonald (415/392-7080 x17, or [mmacdonald@uahc.org](mailto:mmacdonald@uahc.org)).

## Azkarah:

*A Yizkor (memorial) service of healing*

**Tuesday, October 14, 2003**

**Hosted by Congregation Emaun-El  
2 Lake Street (at Arguello), S.F.**

**6:00 pm** Join us for an informal discussion on the losses in our lives

**7:00 pm** service in the Chapel

Together we will honor our losses, recent or past.  
To have the name of a loved one read, please call  
Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, at (415) 750-4197.

This Azkarah service is co-sponsored by Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Congregation Sherith Israel and Next Steps at Sinai Memorial Chapel.



# Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner

## Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, October 17, 6:15 pm

Meet, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then celebrate Simchat Torah. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck; please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. Be a part of the *ruach* (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

## Baby Chavurah

Sunday, October 12, 10 am to noon

Bring those under-twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. This month we will meet at the synagogue. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets the second Sunday of each month.

## Tot Shabbat

Saturday, October 18,  
10:30 am to noon

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your two to five year olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome.

## Kadimah Celebrates Sukkot

Kadimah families will be participating in their third annual home-based sukkah building project this October 11, the first day of Sukkot. Students and their parents will gather in the backyards and on the decks of one another's homes to have the experience of building and decorating a sukkah. Each learning group creates a lulav from three species native to that yard and families learn the blessings, traditions and origins of this joyous harvest festival. Lucky host families then get to dwell in

their Kadimah-erected sukkah for the length of the festival. Older Kadimah students will continue their celebration on Wednesday, October 15 during a visit to the Jewish Home for the Aged. There we will have an intergenerational celebration with residents of the Home in their sukkah, as well as adding decoration to the sukkah and sparkle to their holidays.

## Consecration of New Students on Simchat Torah

Friday, October 17, 7:30 pm

Simchat Torah marks the beginning of a new year of Torah study. We take this opportunity to give special honor to our students who enter the study of Torah for the first time. We also honor our transmitters of Torah, our Kadimah teachers.

Come dance with the Torah and celebrate the joy of learning! May we all taste the sweetness of Torah in this new year. (See page 1 for more information.)

## Kadimah Welcomes New Staff

Kadimah is blessed with many new talents on our staff this year. Here's who they are:

**Richard Aptekar**, new Ge'avah teacher (K-1), is an actor, singer and performer. He has taught children drama and music, and is the father of four grown children of his own.

**Rachel Billow**, teaching Kitah Dalet (4th/5th grade) on Shabbat, is a recent graduate of Wesleyan College. She comes to San Francisco as an intern in a UCSF program working with HIV/AIDS. Rachel originally hails from the Chicago area.

**Rachel Crowley**, teaching East Bay Hebrew, is a student at San Francisco State University. She comes with a yeshiva education and experiences from Hasidic summer camp. Rachel has recently worked in the California Poets in the Schools program and reconnected with the beauty of the Hebrew language.

**Andrea Guerra** is moving from teacher's assistant to teacher of Shabbat Kitah Gimel (3rd/4th grade). A member of CSZ, Andrea is an artist and photographer who spent the summer in Jerusalem studying at the liberal yeshiva, Pardes.

**Rachel Timoner** joins our staff teaching Midweek Kitah Dalet (4th/5th grade). Rachel works as an organizational consultant to non-profit organizations. She is a CSZ member, a Va'ad member and a parent.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education,  
(415/861-6932 x302 or  
educator@shaarzahav.org)  
for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

## Group for Non-Biological Parents Led by Stacey Shuster, PhD

Mondays, October 13 – November 17,  
7 – 8:30 pm

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a unique and vibrant community that welcomes a variety of family structures. This group is a support group for non-biological parents, which includes any parents who have not given birth to their child(ren). This CSZ members-only group will meet for seven weekly sessions and is free of charge. Member Stacey Shuster, a licensed psychologist, will be facilitating the group. To register or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

## Shop at the CSZ Gift Shop.

It's an easy way  
to make a contribution  
to our synagogue.



# October 2003

# Tishrei/Heshvan 5764

**November Deadline: Tuesday, October 7, 5pm**

## Articles

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment via email to: [froslyn@shaarzahav.org](mailto:froslyn@shaarzahav.org). No late submissions will be accepted.

## Advertising

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or [froslyn@earthlink.net](mailto:froslyn@earthlink.net)). To place a classified ad, call the office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Tishrei 5</i>	2	3	4
			4 pm Midweek Kadimah	7 pm Quarterly Social Action Meeting	8:15 pm Shabbat Services led by Daniel Chesir and Tsipora Prochovnick Auruf of Martin Rawlings and Sheila Fein	<i>Ha'azinu:</i> <i>Deut. 32:1-52</i> 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Aaron Goldman Maclachlan
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 am Kever Avot 7:30 pm Kol Nidre at Herbst Theater	10 <i>Yom Kippur</i> Services at Herbst Theater (see page 1 for times)	11 7 pm Sukkah building	12 4 pm Midweek Kadimah	13 6:30 Va'ad Meeting	14 <i>Erev Sukkot</i> 6 pm Sukkot Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm Sukkot Shalom Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Ora Prochovnick	15 <i>Sukkot</i> 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Family Sukkah Program 10 am Shabbat Services led by Leslie Kane, Larry Best and Red Bennett 12 pm Everyone has a Story: panel discussion



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>12</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>10 am</b> Baby Chavurah	<b>13</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>7 pm</b> Group for Non-Biological Parents	<b>14</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>7 pm</b> Azkarah	<b>15</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>3 pm</b> Most Holy Redeemer Meal <b>4 pm</b> Midweek Kadimah, Sukkot at the Jewish Home for the Aged <b>7 pm</b> JGF newsletter editing	<b>16</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>6:30 pm</b> Ritual Committee	<b>17</b> <i>Sukkot</i> <b>6:15 pm</b> Family Shabbat Dinner <b>7:30 pm</b> Shabbat/ Simchat Torah Service led by Daniel Chesir and Rachel Maclachlan and consecration of new students	<b>18</b> <i>Simchat Torah</i> <b>9 am</b> Torah Study <b>9:30 am</b> Kadimah <b>10 am</b> Shabbat Services <b>10:30 am</b> Tot Shabbat <b>1 pm</b> Silent Meditation
<b>19</b> <b>7 pm</b> JGF Proofreading	<b>20</b> <b>7 pm</b> Group for Non-Biological Parents	<b>21</b> <b>25</b>	<b>22</b> <b>4 pm</b> Midweek Kadimah <b>7 pm</b> Tales of the Sages	<b>23</b> <b>7 pm</b> A Taste of Judaism	<b>24</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Shabbat Services led by Joe Hample and Red Bennett	<b>25</b> <i>Bereshit</i> <i>Gen. 1:1-6:8</i> <b>9 am</b> Torah Study <b>9:30 am</b> Kadimah <b>10 am</b> Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel, Dev Felder Noily and Tsipora Prochovnick Bat Mitzvah of Tsiporah Prochovnick
<b>26</b> <b>30</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Heshvan 1</i> <b>7 pm</b> Group for Non-Biological Parents	<b>28</b> <b>2</b>	<b>29</b> <b>4 pm</b> Midweek Kadimah <b>7 pm</b> Tales of the Sages	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Ritual Committee <b>7 pm</b> A Taste of Judaism	<b>31</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Shabbat Services led by Kabbalat Shabbat Ensemble	<b>1</b> <i>Congregational</i> <i>Advance</i> <b>9 am</b> Torah Study <b>9:30 am</b> Kadimah <b>9:30 am</b> Ge'avah Family Class <b>10 am</b> Shabbat Services led by Steve Weitz





# From the Jewish Toolkit

## Counting the Days of Awe

The Jewish Tool Kit is not enamored of the term “High Holidays,” unless it refers to a vacation in the Swiss Alps. More to her liking is the Hebrew *Yamim Nora'im* – Days of Awe. This phrase better captures the essence of the season, which boils down to one word: *teshuvah*. Teshuvah (from the Hebrew “to return”) is Jewish self-development. It is not *just* repentance, but an ethical and spiritual reassessment of one’s life. Sounds like an “awesome” task to accomplish in just two “high holy days” – but we actually have more time to pull it off.

The *aseret yamay teshuvah* – ten days of repentance – between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a period of intense self-examination. On Rosh Hashanah we’re just “inscribed in the book of life or death”; we still have ten days to get everything in order before we’re “sealed” on Yom Kippur (relax, it’s a metaphor). Even before this, the month of Elul, preceding Rosh Hashanah, is the start of our holiday season, in which we examine our relationships, with ourselves, God and other people. And like any holiday season, there’s a lot of advertising to remind us to get moving. During Elul we sound the shofar every morning – sort of a wake up call for the soul. Penitential prayers, called *slichot*, are added to the regular prayer service. And we are encouraged to move beyond liturgy and think, write in journals, visit grave sites, and actively review the year, learning from the past so that we can improve the future. This includes asking forgiveness and correcting any wrongs we might have committed. So by the time we finish the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur marathon, we’ve been in training for 40 days.

Hopefully, though, we’ve been training for even longer than that – and we’re about to start again. At the end of Yom Kippur, the traditional weekday evening service begins with the words “God is merciful and atones for sins.... God, answer us on the day we call.” What sins?! Have we not just emerged cleansed and pure? Well, maybe so, but we start all over again, immediately. The synagogue provides a setting, the liturgy provides a structure, and the *Yamim Nora'im* prayer experience -- intense, moving and powerful -- provides a level of focus and concentration that we cannot often achieve in our busy day-to-day lives. But to get the most out of the Days of Awe, it is helpful to view them not as a single event; but as a culmination and a renewal of a process that happens every day of our lives. Admittedly, this can be a tall order – who can be conscious of spiritual growth and renewal every day (even in California)? But the Jewish Tool Kit thinks it’s something worth striving for.

*L'shanah tovah tikkativu v'techateimu* – may we all be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit can be sent to [JewishToolKit@attglobal.net](mailto:JewishToolKit@attglobal.net).

## Rabbi Angel's

### Recommended Readings



*Entering the High Holy Days* by Reuven Hammer. JPS Press.

*First Steps to a New Spirit: Reb Zalman's Guide to Recapturing the Intimacy and Ecstasy in Your Relationship With God* by Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi. Jewish Lights Publishing.

*Tiku Shofar: A High Holy Day Mahzor and Source Book for Students and Families* by Shoshana Silberman. United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

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Sha'ar Zahav





# Social Action Connection

**Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, October 2.** During the Days of Awe, join us for a quarterly Social Action Committee meeting from 7 to 8:45 pm at the synagogue. Bring a friend. You'll meet lovely people, eat pizza and help us develop our program agenda. For more information, contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

**Yom Kippur Afternoon Break-Out Group, October 5.** On the afternoon of Yom Kippur, there will be a social action-oriented break-out group. Join Susan Mizner and others to reflect on the nature of our interactions with people who ask us to give money, also known as "panhandlers," in the context of tikkun olam.

**Shabbat Sukkot Shalom, Friday, October 10, 7:30 pm.** This is our second annual social action-oriented service, which will again be co-led by Rabbi Angel. She will be joined at the pulpit by Patrick Mulcahey, who will give the drash. Those of us who have participated in dinner with homeless people at Most Holy Redeemer Church have had a chance to be inspired and enlightened by Patrick, who founded the weekly Wednesday night dinners there in 2001.

Just to intrigue you, here's a bit about his other life: Patrick Mulcahey wrote for television for twenty years, mostly daytime serials, for which he received four Emmy awards. He lives in San Francisco with his partner of eighteen years, Dr. Ken Mills, who is president of the medical staff at St Mary's Hospital. Notwithstanding the above, Patrick denies any aspirations to respectability.

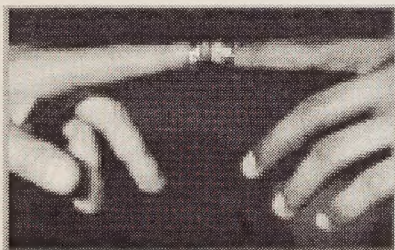
**November 1 Retrospective Panel:** On Saturday, November 1, reflect on twenty-five years of LGBT activism. This event will be part of our dialogue at the Congregational Advance. For more details, or to help develop this event, contact AJ Turpen (ajsparkles@mac.com) or Melanie (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

**Prevent Domestic Violence Shabbaton, November 7, 8:15 pm** Many of us have friends and loved ones who have endured abusive relationships. Some of us have had the experience personally. Violence between intimate partners is shockingly common. One in every three American women has experienced physical or sexual relationship violence. The syndrome is equally prevalent in queer relationships. On Friday evening, November 7 and Saturday morning, November 8, CZS will focus on ways to help our friends and loved ones move through these difficult and often violent relationships as safely as possible. Sermons at both Friday and Saturday services will address the subject. Community United Against Violence (CUAV) will join us for each service to provide information about community services and resources.

**Dinner with Homeless Neighbors – Every Wednesday:** You can do service at Most Holy Redeemer in the Castro. Show up any time between 3 pm and 9 pm to join a dedicated and inspiring community of people, and make connections with homeless neighbors. For more information, contact Susan Lubeck (susanlubeck@aol.com or 510/531-7660).

**Project Open Hand Volunteer Relief:** Every year we relieve regular Open Hand volunteers over Christmas. This popular service opportunity requires coordinating. Can you help? Please contact Melanie (415/861-6932 x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org), Susan (susanlubeck@aol.com) or AJ (ajsparkles@mac.com) by mid-October.

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## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

**Alexis Lezin and Laurie Schmidt  
Elizabeth Priest and Denise Gordon  
Jon Uytterlinde**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## Toiletry Collection

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has an ongoing toiletry collection which we donate to homeless shelters. Please drop off all of your unused toiletries in the big red bin next to the information table outside the oneg room; hotel-size items are especially welcome. Our toiletry collection has benefited many local community agencies and is an easy way to do a mitzvah!



# The Israel Committee

*Deepening our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel*

## Experiencing Israel for the First Time

*CSZ member Andrea Guerra shares some thoughts about her first visit to Israel this past summer:*

This summer was defined for me by two life-transforming experiences of immersion. On May 29th, I stepped down into the living waters of the mikveh to complete my conversion process. Two days later I arrived in Jerusalem to immerse myself in a two-month period of study at The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Though I had been moving towards Judaism my whole life, Israel was an unknown for me, a place I only knew through news reports or books, the perspective depending upon the source. I went to Israel to deepen my Jewish learning by studying text, but I was also searching for a relationship with this land.

My first month was composed of layer upon layer of impressions in this place of Jewish time and air, paradox and tension, religious and secular, Zionist and non, settlers, learned teachers, holy land. As I look back, I flip through images in my mind that struck me when I first arrived: buildings beige and low to the ground, reflecting the sun in its spectrum of cast light; the movie theater in the mall filled with a sea of kippot and tzitzit; two young soldiers sitting outside at a café table, one Uzi under the table, the other slung over a shoulder. Though I was struck initially by the armed guards at the door of every café, restaurant, and mall, the soldiers in clusters on Ben Yehuda Street and throughout the city, the need to go on living in the midst of the intermittent bombings make this an understandable and even comforting fiber of life in Jerusalem.

The rhythm of the ebb and flow of Shabbat defined my time. The work/school week began Sunday and ended Thursday, Friday morning being a flurry of preparations for the Shabbat evening and following afternoon meals, for me intensified by the opportunity to live within a household that was *shomer* (observant of) Shabbat. The attention to detail required in preparing for a 25-hour period without electricity, in which one does not impact the world in any physical way, heightened the experience of a time

separated from the rest of the week, a time of rest, family and friends. One of my favorite errands on Friday was going to the small bakery tucked into the stone wall on Hamagid Street. Upon entering, I would be greeted by the sight and smell of shelves of raisin-sweetened, whole wheat, sesame or poppy seed challah fresh out of the oven, the small room filled with mounds of baked goods for Shabbat.

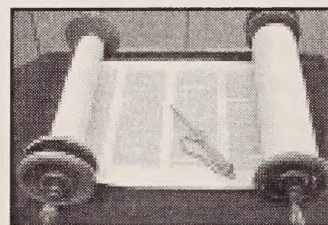
Though clearly not a complete accounting of my time in Jerusalem this summer, this is a taste of moments, pieces of a greater whole that I would be happy to share further with those who are interested.

*For more information about the Israel Committee please contact co-chairs Steve Mazer (steve@rezam.com) or Miki Goralsky (goralsky@access4less.net).*



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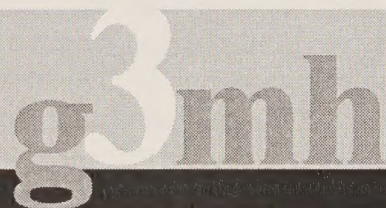
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## Tsipora Prochovnick's Bat Mitzvah

On Saturday, October 25 (Parashat Bereshit), Tsipora Prochovnick will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Tsipora is a lifelong member of CSZ and has attended Kadimah and many CSZ events. Her recent activities reflect the active and committed life of her parents, Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz. This summer, she and her family took trains across the country, visiting many cities including New York, Chicago and Detroit, and spending time at the Holocaust Museum and in NY's Lower East Side. Tsipora also went rock climbing and sea kayaking at Project Courage. Now that she is back at San Francisco Community School, her favorite classes are math, science and physical education, partly, she says, because she has great teachers in those subjects.

Her hobbies include active participation in sports, especially basketball, swimming and rock climbing, as well as creative activities including Jewish paper cutting and making pine needle baskets. In addition, she enjoys her mitzvah project a lot: a Guide Dogs-fostered Labrador Retriever pup named Galina, who is at the stage where "she chews on everything."

As she prepares for her bat mitzvah, Tsipora can draw on all of her Kadimah experiences, but she is especially grateful to her present teacher, Phyllis Mintzer, as well as her tutor Ron Lezell and her parents. All of us here at CSZ are impressed with the fine young person she has grown to be, and congratulate her and her family on this great simcha.



## Want to be the First to Know The News?

Then join the Newsletter Committee. We are always looking for people with writing or editing skills who want to know everything that's going on in the synagogue. For more information, contact Karen Schiller (kschiller@igc.org)

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## *AIDS Fund Donation*

### **Randy Blaustein**

- in memory of John Bernd.

## *Children's Education Fund*

### **Joan Goldman**

- in honor of Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver's new baby, Gabriel Rainer Oliver-Polsky.

### **Ruthy Talansky and Maureen Bennett**

- in memory of Beatsy Wertheimer.

## *Fund for the Future*

### **Allan Berenstein**

- in memory of Joseph Weiss.

### **James Carlson**

- in honor of Jonathan Funk's birthday.
- in honor of Jonathan Funk and John Arnold's 19th anniversary.

### **Steve Elman and Tom Holt**

- in honor of Steve Mazer's new job.

### **Batya Kalis**

- in honor of the bar mitzvah of Gabe Press Becker.
- in honor of the congregation and staff.
- in memory of Joseph Weiss.

### **Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado**

- in honor of Batya Kalis's 80th birthday.
- in honor of Phyllis and George Mintzer's 60th anniversary.
- in honor of Gabe Press Becker's bar mitzvah.
- in honor of arrival and naming of Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman.
- in honor of James Carlson's year of service to CSZ as Interim Executive Director.

## *General Fund*

### **Randy Alfred**

- in memory of Eleanore and Pete Alfred.

### **John Arnold**

- in celebration of his 19th anniversary with Jonathan Funk.

### **Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter**

- in memory of Sheryl Nan Brooks.

### **Jay Baskin**

- in honor of Serafina Persiko Benjamin.

### **Allan Berenstein.**

### **Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher**

- in memory of Marvin Sinkoff.

### **Donna Blow and Nancy Muller.**

### **Andrew Cameron and**

### **Jiyun Cameron-Lee.**

### **Tiela Chalmers and Hershey Hirschkop**

- in memory of Christopher Cowan.

### **Steve Elman and Tom Holt**

- in memory of Joseph Weiss.
- in hopes of Neil Hart's speedy and full recovery.
- in honor of Nicole Bloom's new job.

### **Stephen and Trudi Hauptman**

- in memory of Michael Hauptman.

### **Arnie Jackson**

- in memory of Toby Jackson.

### **Batya Kalis**

- in honor of Rabbi Angel.

### **Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo**

- in honor of Jonathan Funk's birthday.

### **Irene Ogus**

- in honor of Gail Ludwig and Clarissa Kripke's new home.

### **Jeffrey Sherman**

- in memory of Dorothy Sanford.
- in memory of David Polansky.
- in honor of Batya Kalis's 80th birthday.

### **Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado.**

### **Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe**

- in memory of grandmother Laura Bezman's yahrzeit.

### **Michael Zimmerman**

- in honor of Serafina Persiko Benjamin.

### **Merle Malakoff and Gina Surber.**

### **Nancy Windesheim and Eric Zigas.**

### **Steve Elman and Tom Holt**

- in honor of Batya Kalis's 80th birthday.

### **Alan Foss.**

### **Andrew Ramer.**

### **Lisa Szer**

- in honor of Batya Kalis's 80th birthday.

## *Library Fund*

### **William Goldstein and Christopher Archuleta**

- in honor of Wendell Choo's new job.

## *Music in the Mishkan*

### **Sara Haber and Beth Sousa.**

### **Ingrid and Frank Jonas**

- in gratitude for a lovely service on August 15.

## *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

### **Cara Goldfader**

- in honor of Rebecca Goldfader and Kate Alfieri's engagement.

### **Neil Hart and David Wasserman**

- in memory of Peggy Hart.

### **Randy Heilbrunn**

- in honor of Rabbi Angel and her skills as an empathic listener.

### **Stanley Rubin and Barbara Rubin.**

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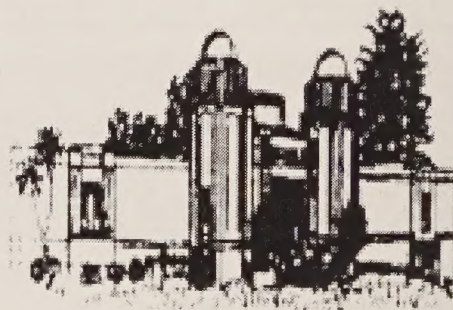
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## Birthdays



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- 2 Mavis Eldredge
- 3 Miriam Heath Katz
- 4 Mark Mackler
- 4 Richard Inlander
- 4 Jonathan Palash-Mizner
- 5 Tony Enriquez
- 5 Howard Steiermann
- 5 Benjamin Bernard-Herman
- 7 David Wasserman
- 7 Michael Zimmerman
- 7 Steven Farmer
- 8 Kate Adler
- 8 James Laque
- 9 Stephen Hauptman
- 9 Mike Bromberg
- 10 Susan Shalit
- 11 Darah Wallsten
- 12 Jeffrey Lilly
- 12 Beth Sousa
- 12 Debra Chasnoff
- 13 Richard Stanley
- 13 David Gellman
- 13 Anna Desmond Bernstein
- 14 Michael Bettinger
- 15 Tsipora Prochovnick
- 16 Richard Meyerson
- 16 Anna Schwartz-Cohen
- 17 Tamara Abrams
- 18 Frances Stevens
- 18 Steven Horowitz
- 18 Robert Daroff
- 19 Lisa Lubchansky
- 20 Donald Berger
- 23 Roberta Achtenberg
- 23 Seth Charney
- 23 Wanderson Carlos
- 23 Ma'ayan Lieberman
- 24 Jacob Wirtschafter
- 24 Rachel Maclachlan
- 25 Judith Cohen
- 25 David Kaiser
- 25 Francine Frohlich
- 25 Alison Austin
- 26 Clarissa Kripke
- 26 Ilana Bernstein
- 26 Sue Swigart
- 27 Sanford Lowe
- 28 Yoel Kahn
- 28 Ilana Rainero-de Haan
- 28 Rae Lorvick-Patt
- 29 Allan Berenstein
- 29 Pamela Miller
- 29 Lonny Darwin
- 30 Helen Bruno

## Anniversaries



- 1 Brian Ellis and Steven Farmer
- 5 Avi Goldberg and William Garcia
- 20 Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner
- 20 Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta
- 21 Eileen Levy and Trudy Fulton-Smith
- 23 Steven Gaynes and Richard Bolingbroter
- 27 Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker
- 28 William Goldstein and Christopher Archuleta

## Oneg, Flower and Childcare Sponsorships



8/1

Oneg was sponsored by **Don Abrams**.

8/8

Bimah flowers were sponsored by **James Carlson** in loving memory of his mother Jan Tuzzolino.

Oneg was sponsored by **Alison Jacoby and Vanessa Teplin** in celebration of their wedding.

8/15

Oneg was sponsored by **Dev, Sara and Jesse Felder Naily** in honor of the CSZ congregation.

8/22

Oneg was sponsored by **Nathaniel Lew and Jason Lorber** in honor of their aufruf and their first meeting at CSZ.

8/29

Oneg was sponsored by **Steven Angelides** in honor of Gabby Volodarsky's birthday.

## Naches



Geoff Benjamin and **Craig Persiko** on the addition of **Serafina Persiko Benjamin** to their family.

**Ann Biderman** on beginning a new business partnership with **Betty Sullivan** called "Betty and Ann Present..." which will produce events, activities and experiences for the LGBT community.

**Alison Jacoby and Vanessa Teplin** on the occasion of their wedding.

**Michael Schwartz** on completing his two-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC, and on his new position as Director of Mental Health for the HIV clinic at the Catskills Regional Medical Center.

**Felicia Park-Rogers, Rachel Timoner** and their son, **Benjamin**, on receiving the Fisher Davenport Award for outstanding contributions on behalf of LGBT families.

**Daphne Stuart and Lyssa Friedman** on Daphne's legal adoption of **Anna Thi Stuart-Friedman**.

**Patricia Lin** who, while conducting research for her book on Asian-American Jews this summer, became a "big sister" to **Jennie Yu-Chang Lytel-Sternberg** (age 6) and **Anna Chun-Qin Lytel-Sternberg** (age 8) of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

**Mike Rankin**, whose article, highly critical of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy banning gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military, was published in the September 1 issue of *Navy Times*. *Navy Times* is a weekly newspaper distributed to all U.S. Navy ships and Navy bases both in the United States and abroad.

**Richard Inlander**, on the birth of his third grandchild, Rebecca Elise Inlander.

## Yahrzeits

- 1 Frank Hyman
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 13 Clint Bigglestone
- 14 Rabbi Ben Marcus
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr

## Condolences

**Lonnie Weiss**, on the death of her father, Joseph Weiss.





# Synagogue Information

## Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Camille Shira Angel (x301)  
• rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

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### Program Director

Melanie Kushnir (x305)  
• mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

### Director of Children's and Family Education

Sue Bojdak (x302)  
• educator@shaarzahav.org

### Kadimah Head Teacher

Phyllis Mintzer

### Administrative Assistant

Steven Angelides (x304)  
• steven@shaarzahav.org

### Rabbi's Assistant

Gabby Volodarsky (x310)  
• gabby@shaarzahav.org

## Officers

President, Arthur Slepian (415/452-9143)  
cszpres@pacbell.net  
Vice President, Rose Katz  
Vice President, Alex Ingersoll  
Treasurer, Gail Ludwig  
Recorder, Karen Schiller

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Marianne Balin  
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Leslie Kane  
Ron Miguel  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Rachel Timoner  
Marc Wernick

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

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## Committee Chairs

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge  
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*Bequests and Donations*, open  
*Bikkur Cholim*, open  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
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*Bylaws*, open  
*Children's Education Board*, Howard Herman  
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*Newsletter*, Karen Schiller  
• newsletter@shaarzahav.org  
*Outreach*, Prudence Carter  
*Past Presidents' Council*, David Gellman  
*Personnel*, Jeff Sherman  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky and Marc Wernick  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Ora Prochovnick  
*Ritual*, Steve Weitz  
*Social Action*, AJ Turpin, Susan Lubeck  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman  
*Web and I.T.*, Drew Parker-Rose

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

## Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely way to commemorate a special occasion.  
Please call the CSZ office for more information.